

SAT and PSAT School Day Overview

Change in Support for PSAT & SAT

As part of our commitment to College Access for All – ensuring equity and excellence in college access and planning opportunities – the NYCDOE is launching SAT School Day beginning with the 2016-17 school year. The SAT School Day initiative aims to promote a strong college-going culture in all schools that will enable us to increase access to postsecondary success for every single high school student.

NYCDOE will centrally fund and support the administration of the SAT to all 11th graders during the school day. The administration of the SAT will replace the centrally-supported school day PSAT/NMSQT administration for 11th graders. The PSAT will continue to be offered to all 10th graders, and will be administered on the same day as the SAT.

High schools have been offering the PSAT during the school day for several years and participation has significantly increased throughout the city. Offering these exams during the school day removes the barriers that many students face to participation, including navigating the process to register, access to a fee waiver, and travel to an exam site on a Saturday. Additionally, taking the test with their peers on a school day will reinforce a strong postsecondary planning culture across the school.

Participation in college assessments such as the SAT is an important college planning activity for all students. Early exposure to these assessments makes college a real and visible goal for students, considering the SAT is required for most college applications. Furthermore, participation in these exams encourages conversations both in school, with their families at home, as well as with institutions of higher education. It is often low-income and minority students who are unable to participate in these early planning activities because of the barriers noted above, contributing to the equity and access gaps that impact postsecondary enrollment and success.

Rollout plan

In preparation for the citywide rollout that will take place in 2016-17, 6,400 11th graders at 40 high schools participated in a pilot of SAT during the school day in April 2015. This school year, 92 high schools are piloting the administration of the PSAT and SAT during the school day on March 2, 2016.

| | PSAT/NMSQT Fall | PSAT Spring | SAT Spring |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2014-15 | 10 th grade, all schools 11 th grade, all schools | | 6,500 11 th grade students at 40 pilot schools |
| 2015-16 | 10 th grade, non-pilot schools 11 th grade, all schools | 10 th grade, pilot schools | 11 th grade, pilot schools (approximately 15,000 students) |
| 2016-17 | At schools' discretion & expense | 10 th grade, all schools | 11 th grade, all schools |

In implementing this model, schools will leverage a number of best practices in support of expanding access to these critical college milestones:

- Aligning with traditional grades in which students first take the PSAT and SAT
- Maintaining the current model of one school day used for PSAT and SAT assessments
- Making PSAT and SAT scores available for planning purposes prior to the start of students' junior and senior years, respectively
- Maintaining access to PSAT for 10th graders

More information

More information about PSAT/SAT School Day in 2016-17 will be released in spring 2016.

Email SATSchoolDay@schools.nyc.gov with any questions.